

FY 2004 FGDC Annual Report Summary

Executive Summary

Introduction

This Report summarizes the information submitted by the FGDC member federal agencies, subcommittees, working groups, as well as the leads designated in the revised OMB Circular A-16. The information for the FY2004 annual report was gathered through a questionnaire intended to identify the scope and depth of spatial data activities across FGDC member agencies. The agency responses provided much useful information regarding general indicators of progress in NSDI implementation and spatial data coordination.

Strategy

Most FGDC member agencies have or will soon have a detailed strategy for integrating geographic information and spatial data activities into their business process. Examples of such strategies include: EPA's Geospatial Blue Print; FSA's GIS Implementation Blueprint; NASA Earth-Sun Mission Statement on Data Management; and the NRCS Integrated Information System.

Compliance

The majority of the FGDC member agencies have spatial data holdings compliant with FGDC Standards. Of those agencies that are not fully compliant, reasons include: that data not to be shared outside of the agency are not made complaint; that outmoded legacy data sets are not made compliant; and that the agency has no mechanism to measure compliance to FGDC Standards.

Performance Measures

More than half of the FGDC member agencies have performance measures for spatial data activities. Examples of such performance measures include: number of new NSDI Clearinghouse nodes established for serving data; number of informal NSDI conference outreach exhibits; number of new NSDI standards developed; and number of new NSDI partnership agreements. Many of the agencies that did not have performance measures related to spatial data activities at the time of this report plan to develop them in the near future.

Redundancy

Virtually all agencies ensure that data is not already available prior to collection. This is accomplished through partnerships with states and counties; by searching the NSDI

Clearinghouse, Geodata.gov, or data set indexes within agencies; through the OMB clearance process; through extensive private industry and government searches; or through multi-agency coordination groups.

Collection

Slightly more than half of the FGDC member agencies that responded ensure that their contracts and grants involving data collection include costs for FGDC Standards and metadata creation. In some cases there are not department-wide policies to this effect. For some agencies, such as TVA, FGDC Standards do not exist for many of their data requirements.

Clearinghouse

About half of the FGDC member agencies publish their data and metadata on the NSDI Clearinghouse, and many agencies that do not post to the Clearinghouse make their data available at their own websites. Some barriers to posting data on the Clearinghouse include: lack of central servers within an agency; offices without resources to produce FGDC compliant metadata; and data not available to the public due to security issues.

Planned Investments

Only one third of the FGDC member agencies post information on their planned geospatial investments to Geodata.gov. Barriers to posting this information include national security concerns, contractual restrictions on certain data and products, the fact that the agencies are constrained to one-year budgets and political sensitivity. One agency stated that it needed more guidance on this issue.

Geodata.gov

Less than half of the FGDC member agencies have registered their Clearinghouse node to geodata.gov for regular harvesting, although several agencies stated they will have achieved this goal during the 2005 calendar year. In one case an agency chose not to schedule metadata harvesting because the data on their node is dated.

E-Gov

The majority of the FGDC member agencies use geospatial data in their mission activities to provide better services through E-Gov. Examples of such E-Gov activities include: the Defense Installation Spatial Data Infrastructure (DISDI) which directly supports base realignment and closure, environmental planning, and range planning; Census's E-Gov applications - QuickFacts, American FactFinder and FedStats; and NOAA's Coastal Services Center Coastal Hazards Projects which facilitates increased decision-support capabilities for coastal managers. Please see the individual reports and the agency response matrix for information regarding the other agencies' E-Gov applications.

Geospatial One Stop

Nearly all FGDC member agencies are involved in the Geospatial One Stop initiative. Examples of Geospatial One Stop participation include funding contributions; staff contributions to help support and guide the project as module leads, primary points of contact, or through meeting participation; and standards and metadata development.

Enterprise Architecture

Nearly all FGDC member agencies have geospatial data as a component of their enterprise architecture or are currently developing an enterprise architecture that will contain such a component. Examples of agency enterprise architectures that include geospatial data are: NASA's Earth Science Enterprise Strategic Plan; GSA's PBS Enterprise Architecture which considers the capture of geospatial (geocodable) data at the addressing/location level; and CDC's Enterprise Architecture which includes geospatial data usage at CDC maps under the FEA Business Reference Model's (BRM's) 'Services for Citizens' Business Area. Please see the individual responses for information.

Partnerships

All FGDC member agencies coordinate data and build partnerships for data collection and standards development. The agencies work with other federal agencies and state, local, and tribal groups to ensure that duplicate data will not be collected. The planned data acquisitions required to be posted at the Geodata.gov Marketplace will also be useful in this capacity.

Lessons Learned

Funding for GIS initiatives is an issue. Inconsistent and limited funding has impacted the agencies' ability to implement GIS into mission activities in a timely manner. Inconsistent funding has made it difficult for federal agencies to collaborate with state and local entities in a timely manner to pool resources for data acquisition. Another lesson learned is that business practices need to be developed to maintain geospatial data systems -- ensuring the usability, reliability and accuracy of the data on an ongoing basis. With regard to the need for partnerships among bodies focused on data production -- the Geodata.gov Marketplace may be an opportunity to partner with groups such as NDEP and NDOP to further enhance data development for specific themes of data.

Outlook

The revised Circular A-16 designates federal agencies to provide the leadership needed for building an effective and efficient National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Agencies are becoming more engaged in building the NSDI, especially through their hard work on the Geospatial One Stop Initiative and through their creation of metadata to document their spatial data holdings. The increased number of participating agencies will greatly

enhance interagency geospatial data coordination. Version 2 of the Geodata.gov Portal will be adopted in early 2005 to allow greater interoperability and provide ease of use for first time users. The FGDC Framework data standards underwent public review and received 5,000 comments which will be adjudicated prior to submittal to the American National Standards Institute in FY05. The FGDC Future Directions activity undertaken in FY04 brought about many action plans including a revised governance model for the FGDC that will be presented to the FGDC Steering Committee in June 2005. In FY05 the FGDC, in collaboration with the Federal CIO Architecture Infrastructure Committee, will initiate discussions on the development of the National Geospatial Enterprise Architecture (NGEA) and its relationship with the broader Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA). In FY05 the FGDC will also examine opportunities to pool and leverage federal grants and processes for increasing geospatial data management activities, and building the NSDI.